

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 previously cancelled.

11. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a strobo means for illuminating the scene
incident on the imaging element;

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element; and

a control means for setting a lower sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when the strobo means when the strobo means is being charged than when the strobo means is not being charged.

Claims 12-14 previously cancelled.

15. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus of claim 11, wherein said imaging element is powered by a power source, said control means including means conducting a voltage check operation for monitoring a power source voltage level to prevent charging of said strobo means when said voltage level is below a predetermined threshold voltage.

16. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a shutter release button movable to a partially depressed position;

said control means initiating a voltage check operation when said shutter release button is moved to said partially depressed position.

17. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a shutter release button movable to a partially depressed position and a fully depressed position;

said control means initiating a voltage check operation when said shutter release button is moved to said partially depressed position.

18. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus of claim 17, wherein said control means monitors said strobo means to determine if said strobo means is charging responsive to completion of a voltage check operation and movement of said shutter release button to said fully depressed position.

19. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus of claim 18, wherein said control means further includes means for returning to said voltage check operator when a previous voltage check operation is completed and the shutter release button has failed to move so said fully depressed position.

20. (Original) A method for operating an imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to incident scene light flux in a photo electric converting element section, said imaging apparatus being powered by a power source and including a strobo means, comprising:

- a) monitoring the power source;
- b) setting a frequency of a sweep out signal for sweeping out unnecessary

charge from the imaging element whereby a higher frequency sweep out signal is set when an output voltage level of the power source is greater than a first predetermined voltage and setting a lower frequency for the sweep out signal when the output voltage level is lower than said first predetermined voltage;

and

- c) monitoring said strobo means and setting the frequency of the sweep out signal at said lower frequency when said strobo means is being charged to thereby reduce energy output from the power source when the sweep out operation is being performed during the time that the strobo means is being charged.